

1944

## Clark, Conrad -1944-45 (typescript)

MSRC Staff

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Pfc. Conrad Clark 13074601

Received  
July 29 '44  
Battery B,  
207th AAA(AW)Bn.,  
APO 928, % Postmaster  
San Francisco, Calif.  
14 July, 1944.

Somewhere inn New Guinea

Mr. James B. Nabrit, Jr.,  
Secretary,  
Howard University,  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Nabrit:

It was nice hearing from you today. Not so very long ago, in replying to alletter of Rev. Thurman's, I asked him to say hello to you, and Pres. and Mrs. Johnson.

Have read in one of the weeklies, of the Commencement Exercises, and it certainly reminded me of past years, when that day came around in June, it was an annual must on my list. But, after all is said and done, even wars do come to an end, and therefore, so will this one be....I hope.

Before coming to see you that day in March of last year, I first visited at the President's house, and talked to both the Pres. and Mrs. Johnson. For more than 30 minutes the visit lasted, and the memory of this visit, shall always occupy a very pleasant and lasting niche in my remembrance of pleasant things. Although I had known the Johnsons since 1936, covered affairs of their public gatherings and talks in Washington, I learned something of the family, that day, that I shall never forget. I may say, I uncovered the human and very little known inside living of that noble family, within thirty minutes or so.

Among the many things of pleasant recalling were one or two remarks made by both the Pres. and Mrs. Johnson, and they were that they were never too busy to acknowledge the visit of any Service man, moreso, a former Howardite, and the same applied to any correspondence sent to them by the boys, regardless where they were. I think those were two of the nicest and deep felt remarks I had ever heard, since my coming into the Army, and yet remain as such. My best regards to them both, and Mrs. Nabrit.

On June 10th., I was accredited by GHQ of Gen MacArthur's Hqs. as an accredited news-correspondent for the SWPA. Will write again, giving a bit of GI living in the jungles.

Very truly yours,

Conrad Clark



August 29, 1944

Pfc. Conrad Clark, 13074601  
Battery B, 207th AAA (AW) Bn.  
APO # 928 % Postmaster  
San Francisco, California

Dear Private Clark:

This is to acknowledge and thank you for your letter of recent date. It is always a pleasure to hear from our men and women in the service.

It makes us proud here at the University to know that you recall so many pleasant memories at Howard. We are striving daily to make it a better Alma Mater for you and others to return to after the war.

Your experiences in New Guinea, jungle life and other information will be deeply appreciated.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

James M. Nabrit, Jr.  
Secretary

JMN:lal



FORT McCLELLAN, ALABAMA

March 25, 1945

Dear Col. Boettcher,

First of all, please excuse me if I spelled your name wrong. Somehow I feel that I did.

I guess you remember me being in your class for the first quarter of the past school year. If you can't, mention my name to some of the fellows in your class, 2nd Basic, and maybe they can help you out.

I have been in the army since January 5, 1945. This branch of service that I am in is the Infantry. As you know, this training is pretty tough. Our cycle is 15 weeks and I am in the beginning of my 10th week.

Since I have been here, I have been doing OK. I am a squad leader in my platoon and wear acting Sgt. stripes. I think I can attribute that position to my R.O.T.C. training at Howard. When I first came here the C.O. asked for those who had past military experience. I mentioned that I had R.O.T.C. at Howard and since then I've been a squad leader.

I know when I was in school I did not think my R.O.T.C. would be of any value to me. In fact I did not take as much interest in it as I should have. But now I can see that it has been of much value to me.

If I continue to prove good I may be held over after the cycle to go to Enlisted Cadre School. There is only a certain number taken from each company, so you have to do pretty well in basic to be kept over. I only hope that I am good and lucky enough to be selected by my Commanding Officer.

I guess you may have been to McClellan before. It's a very nice camp. It is also very large. Since I've been here I haven't seen but half of it.

My Commanding Officer is 1st Lt. William Cooper. He's from McComb, Miss. I don't know whether you know him or not. I think he is a pretty regular officer. Of course some of the fellows think he's kind of strict. But they don't realize that he has to be. After all he has a lot of responsibility over some 200 odd soldiers and you just can't be too lenient to trainees. Some of my other officers are Lt. Col. Humphrey, battalion commander; Col. Munro, regimental commander and Brig. General Fuller, post Commander. You may have heard or know of these officers.

I've met two other fellows from Howard. They both had R.O.T.C. They are Willis Pope Queen and another fellow by the name of Phippen. You may recall them. They are both Cadre men now. So again I say that R.O.T.C. was a big



factor in the helping of their ratings so fast.



Tell the fellows in your classes not to take R.O.T.C. so lightly. I know when I was in school I did not realize the seriousness of this war. But after you get in the army and especially the Infantry, one's attitude is greatly changed. I know some of them are just as I was in school. But after they get here and possibly overseas they will realize that mistake they made.

I guess you wonder if I like the army. Well, at first I did not. Now I like it pretty well. But like the odd 11 or 12 million other servicemen I would like to be home with my loved ones. I find that if you do your best, you'll get along OK in the army. It's a shame that some soldiers don't see that.

It's time for chow now, so I guess I'll be closing. Army food is really OK. If you have time, please drop me a line as I would like to hear from you. Also, like me, hope and pray that this war will be over soon. - - - A former student,

(Signed) Pvt. Blyden S. Boyle





Pfc. Conrad Clark,  
Editor.

I & E SECTION  
207th AAA (AW) BN.  
APO 565, C/O.; P/ALIF.  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

17 May, 1945

NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES

Mr. Nabritt :

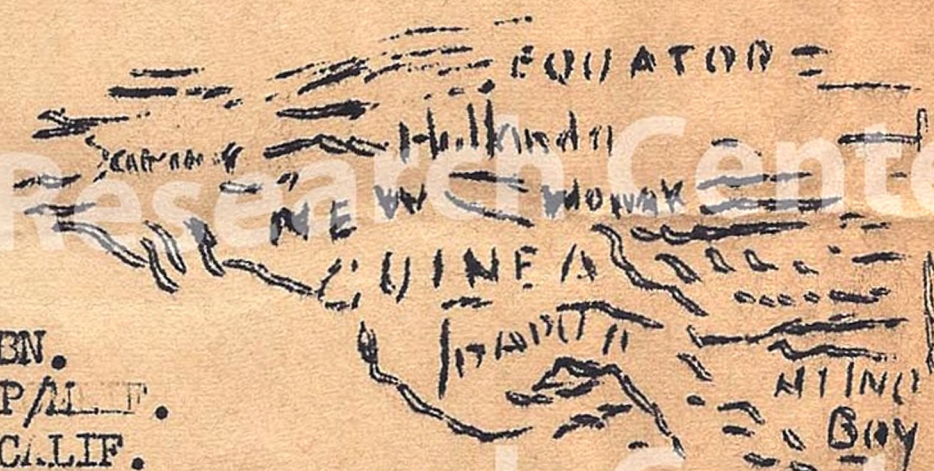
A few weeks ago I mailed to you a box, which I hope has since arrived at its destination, safe and intact.

The boat and shells, etc are for use in the Library, if you think it would not be amiss there. I thought that the articles, coming from here, over 10,000 miles might give some of the Howardites a brief insight into natural life, as far as it is possible with the objects, especially the native boat, which is an identical replica of what the natives use here, going to and from their "homes", which are built on logs across the bays, as well as in the jungles... This is the type of boat, that a native will use, to sail and row, for two to five weeks across the Corral Seas, and other water routes over here, to visit other native villages, etc. The Japs also used these boats very much during their invasion of New Guinea, and later used by the Americans and Australians, in fording across the rivers and streams.

The "oyster" shell is rather unique, in-as-much as it is a bit different from our oysters at home, and the smaller shells are picked up from the near-by beaches, and I hope the collection, if you care to call it as such, may be rather an interesting study to those in the study of plant life, etc.

I am in receipt of a recent bulleting, for which I am grateful, very much.

Only yesterday I had a letter from Capt. Joel Lewis, executive officer in the 318th Medical Battalion of the 93rd Division, a former Howardite, who is further up North. He was stationed at this Base, when I first came here in March, later being transferred with his Division "up the line."





On April 15/45, I was made a military correspondent, G-2 Sect., 14th AA Command, assigned to this Battalion. (The 14th Command is in charge of all Anti-Aircraft units in the SWPA, and among the Ack Ack outfits are two all-Negro units.)

The other battalion, mine was the first one here, under Lt. Col. De-Maurice Moses of NY., is the 742nd which is now commanded by Col. Moses, and his Executive Officer is Major (as of a few weeks ago) Clarence D. venport, 1943 West Pointer... As a news-correspondent here, I can only submit articles to the ANP and the AFRO, but now with the new assignment as military correspondent, I can in addition designate any paper or magazine I wish my stories sent to, and I have taken the privilege of listing HU as one of the media for releases...

My regards to Mrs. N. britt, Dr. and Mrs. Johnson, and the faculty as a whole, not to omit the student body.

Very truly yours:

*Pfc. Conrad Clark*

Pfc. Conrad Clark,  
Military Correspondent.

INCLS...

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